

Dear Parents and Carers

We have another busy and exciting term ahead of us. In 2020 and 2021 GCSE, AS and A Level examinations were cancelled and many other landmark moments in the life of a school were cancelled or changed. This year we are cautiously optimistic about what the summer term will bring. We look forward to sharing with you our exciting plans for Year 11 and Year 13 proms, Year 6 and Year 12 transition, Drama department productions, Sports Day at the EIS and much, much more.

### COVID-19 guidance for schools

As the country now moves into the 'living with COVID' phase there are some updates to the processes around isolation and absence. The key message from the government remains that there are simple things everyone can do to reduce the spread of COVID-19: These are:

- Get vaccinated.
- Let fresh air in if meeting others indoors.
- Practise good hygiene: wash your hands, cover your coughs and sneezes, clean your surroundings frequently.
- Wear a face covering or a face mask.

Face coverings are no longer expected in school, however, it remains a personal choice for every individual and we respect anyone's right to do so.

In terms of absence from school, children with mild symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, slight cough) who are otherwise well, can attend school. Children who are unwell **and** have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

We will continue to encourage everyone with respiratory symptoms to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and/or sneezing and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.

### COVID-19 Tests

Testing kits are no longer being made freely available and schools cannot order or supply test kits.

- **Positive Test.** It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. If they do test and are positive children and young people should stay at home for 3 days. They can then resume normal activities if they feel well and do not have a temperature.

### Illness and Reporting Absence

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, it is important that you notify us of this as early as possible each morning. In addition, please contact school on each day of your child's absence.

If you text or email school or leave a message on the school's absence line to inform us of your child's absence please provide the following information:

- Your child's name
- Your child's form group
- The reason for the absence
- Your relationship to the child.

Text messages will be sent at 10am to the parents and carers of students who are not in school and for absences we cannot account for. Please do respond to this message so that we can understand why your child is not in school.

If your child becomes ill whilst they are at school, they will be attended to by our on call team and staff in the medical room if necessary. The team in the medical room will contact you if it is deemed appropriate for your child to go home. Please do not arrive at school to collect your child if they have contacted you directly.

### **Governing Body**

At Tapton we value the support and challenge our governors provide. Governors hold the flame of ambition for all learners within our school and provide additional guidance and direction for the Leadership Team; in short, they are instrumental to the running of the school. Following the resignation of a governor we wish to appoint a community governor to join our local governing body. We would ideally like someone to represent the views and experiences of our Netherthorpe and Upperthorpe community (postcodes S6 and S3) which make up 18% of our cohort. There is a commitment to attend up to nine meetings throughout the year and you would work closely with our leadership team and nine other governors to set the strategic vision for our school. If you are interested in this role and would like to find out more please contact [sdunn@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:sdunn@taptonschool.co.uk)

### **Spare Uniform Supplies**

You will remember that in previous updates we have asked for pre-loved uniform so that we can increase our supplies of spare uniform. Please could we request that if you have any surplus uniform it is dropped off in school reception. Our supplies of school uniform for older year groups is particularly low and spares would be hugely appreciated.

### **School Iftar**

During Ramadan this year we were delighted to be able to host our first school Iftar (breaking of the fast) for all our students and families. Sami Kayani, a current year 12 student was present at the event and has written the following report.

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April Tapton School and the Dialogue Society partnered together to create an unforgettable "Iftar" experience, for the whole school community to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan. With a packed night of quizzes, talks, raffles and delicious food, all were invited to learn, understand and cherish the importance of Ramadan to Muslims and the adjustments they make to their daily lives during the fasting period.

The proceedings started with an introduction from the Dialogue Society, a charity registered in 1999, with the goal of connecting communities and cultures and empowering each other by engaging and sharing views and lifestyles. Shortly after the introduction, a slideshow, presented by the Dialogue Society's own, Abu Bakr, and a speech from a former Tapton student both outlined the requirements for Muslims during the month of Ramadan and the process of "Ramadan-ifying" oneself during the holy month. The serene atmosphere of the night shifted, as it was every man, woman and child for themselves as everyone competed for their share of the five exclusive Dialogue Society customised gift bags in a Ramadan-Based quiz. To calm the mood once again, an elegant yet soothing performance of the Turkish Ney instrument created a tranquil ambience just minutes before the breaking of the fast. Alas, it was the time for which everyone was waiting for, the serving of food, a vast arrangement of Medjool Dates, fluffy Pilau rice, hearty Lentil soup, Spinach Cheese Rolls, Roast Chicken and Naan Bread heaped in steaming trays and loaded onto plates. Laughter and talk erupted across the hall over the wholesome meals and a raffle was drawn in which each of the 10 winners (including me) won a scented candle. Unfortunately, leaving time approached but not without immense thanks, gratitude and love towards the organisation of the event, both by the dialogue society and the leadership at Tapton School. After an amazing evening, bidding one another farewell was saddening but instilled hope that this may be the first of many community Iftars to come.

### **Catering Provision**

Towards the end of last term we had a second catering pod installed at the front of school. This has had a positive impact on the lunchtime experience for the Year 10s and Year 11s who have their lunch and break times at the front of

school. The student feedback following this has been wholly positive and the time students spend queuing for their food has massively reduced. They also still have the opportunity to use the dining hall from 1:10 every day should they wish to purchase the hot meal of the day.

We are also pleased to announce that we have finally received planning permission for the installation of 2 covered seating areas at the front of school. Work on this will take place in the summer holidays. This will give the Year 10s and Year 11s some outside seating space in addition to being able to use the hall when it is available.

### **Celebrating Achievement**

We always relish hearing about the achievements of our students outside of school and would like to take the opportunity to recognise and reward students in school. Please do let school know if your child has been involved in activities outside of school that you would like to see recognised. Ms Rhodes is looking forward to rewarding these students in the Friday Rewards!

### **Final GCSE, AS and A-Level Examinations**

Students in Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 know that they will be facing final examinations this year and we have already shared a great deal of information with those year groups and families about the process. Final examinations begin on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May and will continue for six weeks. The examination contingency day this year is **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June**; families with examination students are strongly advised to avoid making any plans until after this date. Timetables have already been shared with students, however, final key information will be shared in a reminder next week.

### **Year 11 Prom**

After cancellations in 2020 and 2021 we are delighted to share details of our Year 11 Prom; this will take place on July 14<sup>th</sup> at Tipton Hall between 7pm – 10:30pm. Year 11 students can purchase a ticket to the prom for £22. This needs to be paid for through ParentPay and a consent form needs to be filled in and returned to school by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May**. Tickets will not be available after this date and entrance to the prom is strictly by ticket only. We are really looking forward to coming together to celebrate this special time with our students.

### **Sixth Form**

We hope that our students feel prepared for life beyond the classroom when they study with us, and one of the topics we believe to be of utmost importance is an awareness of politics, locally and nationally, and to be able to make informed decisions when voting. As the Local and Mayoral Elections approach we have been using form time to look at the manifestos and stance points for each of the parties and candidates. We hope the students found this useful, whether they are eligible to vote in this election or not.

The Summer term brings a mix of emotions for Sixth Form – and it is very busy! We have mixed emotions about our Year 13s finishing; we shall miss them but also feel pride that they are going on to the next stage of life and study, and taking the skills forward that they have learnt from school. As Year 13 embark on Study Leave (20<sup>th</sup> May is their last day in school before exams) we wish them all the best with their exam preparation and the exams themselves. And we also wish them a fabulous Summer. We look forward to seeing as many of them as possible at our Leaver's Party, which will be held at The Mowbray on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Letters regarding tickets will be out next week. Simultaneously, we start to prepare our Year 12s for their Post-18 destinations and completing of application forms. Coming up to support this we have the Higher Education Evening (7<sup>th</sup> June) for both parents and students, followed by Destinations Day (6<sup>th</sup> July) in school for the students. Both these events make use of our ties with local universities and course providers (and some a bit further afield). Year 12 will visit the UCAS Convention at the Motorpoint Arena (24<sup>th</sup> June), an excellent opportunity to think about the courses and places on offer to them.

### **Year 12 AS Level**

A number of our Y12 students will be completing AS exams from May onwards. Towards the end of June, all of Year 12 will complete their in-school End of Year Exams, which will be used to set UCAS predicted grades in the Summer Term.

## Music

Thank you so much to all of the pupils and staff involved in the Senior Leaver's Concert last term, it was such a fabulous evening and a lovely celebration of our Year 13 pupils in particular. We wish you all the best of luck in whatever you are doing next year - please stay in touch. The concert is now available to view via a link on the school website (visit the latest news page).

As mentioned previously, we have had to shuffle all of our concert dates due to the slightly changed exam period this year. This is also going to be the case for the Junior Concert which will be towards the end of this term. Letters will be coming out soon with the new date – please keep an eye out for it in your child's bag! There will also be posters around school and information on the website about how to book tickets. We look forward to seeing you there!

Remember that if you would like your child to have music lessons from September with a Music Hub teacher, they need to be signed up by half term. This is not the case if you are having, or would like, lessons with an accredited or private teacher. Please email me directly for more information about instrumental or vocal lessons [gpage@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:gpage@taptonschool.co.uk)

## Drama

Tickets will be going on sale soon for West Side Story. Please keep Monday 11<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July free from 7.30pm; these will be our performance evenings. We are now in full swing rehearsing and preparing for the show in July. The students and staff are working really hard to bring all the elements together.

The weekend before the show we will be in school all weekend putting set up in the hall, programming the lights and bringing all the costume together and will showcase a small section of the show on the morning of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July to our feeder schools in the hall. We are really excited and looking forward to the show. When tickets go on sale, we will send students home with the information and post a link on the school website.

## PE

We are excited to announce that we are getting a new PE kit – see photo below! It will be available at the end of May and all years will be welcome to purchase it this year; please see the Pinders website for more details. *Please do note that there will be no expectation to have it until September 2024.*

We have had a fantastic start to the summer term with a number of cricket, rounders and athletics competitions already taking place. We would really love to see more students joining in with our summer programme of activities and clubs so do please encourage your child to have a go at something new this term. The programme of clubs is attached to the Update.

We are eagerly anticipating our first sports day for three years at the EIS on July 6<sup>th</sup>. All Year 7-9 students will be involved and it will be a fantastic day for all. Further details will be released in the forthcoming weeks.



## Headteacher Drop-in

The next Headteacher Drop-in will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May between 3.45 and 4.45 with the last slot being 4.45. This is your opportunity to meet with Ms Rhodes, Headteacher and Ms Grewal, Deputy Headteacher, to talk through a specific question or concern. If you wish to use the Drop-in, please arrive in school reception between 3.45 and 4.45. We look forward to seeing you.

The final Tapton Update of this academic year will be available on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Tapton School

### Upcoming dates for your diary

13/05/22	Condover Netball Residential Leaves
15/05/22	Condover Netball Residential Returns
16/05/22	External exams begin
17/05/22	GCSE Art and Design Exhibition 4.00pm-6.00pm
23/05/22	A-Level Art and Design Exhibition 5.00pm-7.00pm
27/05/22	Finish for Half term
07/06/22	Post 18 Destinations Evening 6.00pm
08/06/22	Y10 Conisborough Castle trip
09/06/22	Y10 Conisborough Castle trip
10/06/22	Y10 Conisborough Castle trip
15/06/22	Y10 Parents Evening
23/06/22	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition

<b>Sports Clubs</b>					
	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Before school 8-9am</b>	<b>Y8 rounders</b> (Mrs Boyes and Mr Hooper)  <b>Y10-11 basketball</b> (Mr Kelly)	<b>Y8-9 badminton</b> (Mrs Goodhead)  <b>Y10 rounders</b> (Miss Risby)  <b>Team basketball</b> (Invitation only) (Mr Kelly)	<b>Y8-9 boys' basketball</b> (Mr Kelly)  <b>Y7-13 Girls' cricket</b> (Mrs Goodhead and Mrs Wilson)	<b>Y10-13 badminton</b> (Mrs Goodhead)  <b>Y9 rounders</b> (Mrs Becks and Mrs Boyes)	<b>Team badminton</b> (Invitation only)  <b>Y7 rounders</b> (Mrs Wilson and Mr Hooper)
<b>Lunch 1-1.30pm</b>	<b>Multi-sports club (invitation only)</b> (Mrs Goodhead)  <b>Y7-8 tennis</b> (Mr Lunn)	<b>Y10 -13 badminton</b> (Mrs Goodhead)  <b>Y8 &amp; Y9 athletics</b> (Mrs Boyes, Miss Risby, Mr Hooper and Mr Scorah)	<b>Y7-9 badminton</b> (Mrs Goodhead)	<b>VS multi-sports club</b> (Ms Phipps)  <b>Y7 &amp; Y10 athletics</b> (Mrs Boyes, Mrs Becks, Mr Hooper & Mr Lunn)	<b>Y7-13 girls' cricket</b> (Mrs Goodhead)  <b>Y9-10 tennis</b> (Mr Scorah)
<b>After school 3.30-4.30pm</b>	<b>Y7 girls' basketball</b> (Mr Kelly)  <b>Y8-13 tennis</b> (Mr Scorah)	<b>Y10/11 girls' basketball</b> (Mr Kelly)  <b>Y7-8 cricket</b> (Mr Lunn)	<b>Y7 boys' basketball</b> (Mr Kelly)	<b>Y8-9 girls' basketball</b> (Mr Kelly)  <b>Y7 tennis</b> (Mr Scorah)  <b>Y9-10 cricket</b> (Mr Lunn)	